CLAIMS

1. A content item provisioning method, comprising the steps:

storing content items or data defining access to content items for provision to users;

maintaining, for one or more users, respective content access data usable to determine which content items or data defining access to content items may be provided to respective users;

receiving content items or data defining access to content items from users for provision to users;

changing the respective content access data for those users from which content items or data defining access to content items are received; and

providing a sub-set of the content items or data defining access to content items to a user, the members of the sub-set being determined in dependence on the content access data of the user,

wherein each content item or set of data defining access to a content item has a property having a value, and the content access data comprises a content access value relating to the property, wherein the sub-set of the content items or data defining access to content items is determined in dependence on the respective values.

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the property values and content access values are times and/or dates.

3. A method according to claim 1, wherein the property values and content access values are geographical positions.

4. A method according to any of the preceding claims, wherein multiple sets of content items or data defining access to content items are stored, and respective content access data is maintained for one or more of the sets of content items or data defining access to content items.

5. A method according to claim 4, wherein content access data for one set is changed in dependence on the receipt from users of content items or data defining access to content items for that set.

6. A method according to claim 4, wherein content access data for one set is changed in dependence on the receipt from users of content items or data defining access to content items for another set or sets.

7. A method according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the content access values are changed so as to increase the content items or data defining access to content items provided in the sub-set .

8. A method according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the content access values are changed to give a fixed change in the content items or data defining access to content items with which the users are provided in the sub-set.

9. A method according to any of claims 1 to 7, and further comprising the step of receiving rating data specifying a rating given to a content item by a user from one or more users, wherein the changing step comprises changing the content access value for the user from which the content item or data defining access to the content item which was rated was received in dependence on the received rating data.

10. A method according to claim 9, wherein the rating is weighted according to the content access value of the rating user.

11. A method according to any of claims 1 to 7, wherein the changing step further comprises receiving requests for specific content items or data defining access to content items from users, and changing the content access value for the user from which the requested content item or data defining access to content was received.

12. A method according to any of claims 1 to 7, wherein the changing step further comprises monitoring the time or date at which a first content item or data defining access to a content item is received in relation to the time or date a second content item or data defining access to a content item is received, and changing the content access value of the user from the which first content item or data defining access to a content item was received in dependence on the difference between the times and/or dates.

13. A method according to any of claims 1 to 7, wherein the changing step further comprises monitoring the time since the receipt of a content item or data defining access

to a content item, and changing the content access value of the user from which the content item or data defining access to the content item was received in dependence on the monitored time.

14. A method according to any of the preceding claims, and further comprising the step of permitting a user to perform manipulations of the stored content items or data defining access to content items in dependence on the user's content access level.

15. A method according to any of the preceding claims, collectively performed by at least a sub-set of peers within a peer to peer network.

16. A computer program or suite of computer programs arranged such that when executed by a computer system or a plurality of computer systems it/they cause the computer system or systems to perform the method of any of the preceding claims.

17. A computer readable storage medium storing a computer program or any one or more of a suite of computer programs according to claim 16.

18. A content item provisioning system, comprising:

content storage arranged in use to store content items or data defining access to content items for provision to users;

data storage arranged in use to store, for one or more users, respective content access data usable to determine which content items or data defining access to content items may be provided to respective users;

first receiving means for receiving content items or data defining access to content items from users for provision to users;

a data processor arranged in use:

i) to change the respective content access data for those users from which content items or data defining access to content items are received; and

ii) determine a sub-set of the content items or data defining access to content in dependence on the content access data of a user; and

means for providing the determined sub-set to the user,

wherein each content item or set of data defining access to a content item has a property having a value, and the content access data comprises a content access value

relating to the property, wherein the sub-set of the content items or data defining access to content items is determined in dependence on the respective values.

19. A system according to claim 18, wherein the property values and content access values are times and/or dates.

20. A system according to claim 18, wherein the property values and content access values are geographical positions.

21. A system according to any of claims 18 to 20, wherein multiple sets of content items or data defining access to content items are stored in the content storage, and respective content access data is stored in the data storage for each set of content items or data defining access to content items.

22. A system according to claim 21, wherein content access data for one set is changed in dependence on the receipt from users of content items or data defining access to content items for that set.

23. A system according to claim 21, wherein content access data for one set is changed in dependence on the receipt from users of content items or data defining access to content items for another set or sets.

24. A system according to any of claims 18 to 23, wherein the content access values are changed so as to increase the content items or data defining access to content items provided in the sub-set .

25. A system according to any of claims 18 to 24, wherein the content access values are changed to give a fixed change in the content items or data defining access to content items with which the users are provided in the sub-set.

26. A system according to any of claims 18 to 24, and further comprising means for receiving rating data specifying a rating given to a content item by a user from one or more users, wherein the data processor is further arranged to change the content access value for the user from which the content item or data defining access to the content item which was rated was received in dependence on the received rating data.

27. A system according to claim 26, wherein the rating is weighted according to the content access value of the rating user.

28. A system according to any of claims 18 to 24, further comprising means for receiving requests for specific content items or data defining access to content items from users, and the data processor is further arranged to change the content access value for the user from which the requested content item or data defining access to content was received.

29. A system according to any of claims 18 to 24, further comprising a monitor to monitor the time or date at which a first content item or data defining access to a content item is received in relation to the time or date a second content item or data defining access to a content item is received, wherein the data processor is further arranged to change the content access value of the user from the which first content item or data defining access to a content item was received in dependence on the difference between the times and/or dates.

30. A system according to any of claims 18 to 24, further comprising a monitor to monitor the time elapsed since the receipt of a content item or data defining access to a content item, the data processor being further arranged to change the content access value of the user from which the content item or data defining access to the content item was received in dependence on the monitored time.

31. A system according to any of claims 18 to 30, and further comprising content item manipulation means arranged in use to permit a user to perform manipulations of the stored content items or data defining access to content items in dependence on the user's content access level.

32. A system according to any of claims 18 to 31, collectively embodied by at least a sub-set of peers within a peer to peer network.